

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

Memorandum

TO : Chief, Domestic Collection Division
Attn: Deputy Chief, DCD

WAS-700-74
DATE: 29 July 1974

FROM : Chief, Washington Field Office

SUBJECT: I. Irving Davidson - Call-In to the DCI.

1. On 26 July 1974, I. Irving Davidson, Public Relations Specialist, Suite 806 City Building, 1612 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC, 20006, was contacted at his office. Davidson had telephoned the Director of Central Intelligence earlier in the day to request an immediate interview concerning a Soviet arms shipment into the Western Hemisphere.
2. Davidson claimed that he had fairly reliable information concerning the location of 15 thousand Soviet "Klatchnikov" rifles with 25 million rounds of ammunition. Manufactured in 1970, the rifles are in the original crates and sell for US\$120 each; Davidson did not establish the price of the ammunition. He can arrange for the entire shipment to arrive at the free port in Antwerp, Belgium, for transfer to any buyer. Davidson hopes the US Government will purchase this entire shipment in order to prevent it from entering the Western Hemisphere. He presumes that he was notified of the existence of the shipment because it is well-known that he has the confidence of senior government leaders throughout Latin America, and might be instrumental in selling the arms. Davidson is appalled at the thought of Soviet arms proliferation in the Western Hemisphere, and he hopes the shipment can be halted.
3. On 23 July 1974, Davidson returned to the US after traveling to a number of foreign countries. He received a telephone call from an old friend in Europe whose identity he refused to reveal. The friend advised him that "Alexander" had a sound proposal and would get in touch with him. Later on 23 July, Alexander called Davidson from a location which Davidson believes to have been within the continental US. Alexander related that he had the weapons and ammunition stored outside of Eastern Europe, and that the goods could be inspected if Davidson and his client would go to Paris, France, for further instructions. If requested to do so, Davidson is willing to escort a US representative to Paris for the purpose of inspecting the merchandise. He would not accept a commission on the transaction, but might be persuaded to accept expense money for the trip. He insisted that his offer was motivated purely by patriotism, and because of his personal dislike for the USSR.



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4. We expressed our appreciation to Davidson for the information provided, and assured him that we would advise him within one week of USG interest, or lack thereof. We expressed our feeling that almost certainly the reaction would be a negative one. No other commitment was made to Davidson.

5. We acquired the following personal data on Davidson. He was born on 19 January 1921 in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and he currently resides at 2919 Ellicott Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. He formerly was registered as an agent of several foreign governments, but he recently resigned these commissions. He frequently reports information to the FBI after his numerous trips abroad, but he felt that this particular information was beyond the scope of the Bureau's jurisdiction.

6. DCD (Services) Memo, dated 14 May 1971, Subject: Davidson, I. Irving - Current Prosecution for Fraud--advised the Washington Field Office that the Office of Security had placed Davidson in a "No Contact" category, and that he was not to be used in any capacity whatsoever until further notice.

7. Unless instructions are received to the contrary, we plan to telephone Davidson on 31 July 1974 to inform him that the USG has deemed it inappropriate to react to his proposal. We trust that our refusal will not be newsworthy to Davidson's friend, columnist Jack Anderson, whose offices are on the next floor.

8. Attached is Davidson's file for your return to DCI Security.


A. S. COLEMAN

VBNapper:yrb

Attachment: As stated

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